Combination and interpretations of $t\bar{t}$ cross section measurements with the D0 detector

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We combine measurements of the top quark pair production cross section in $p\bar{p}$ collisions in the $\ell+$ jets, $\ell\ell$ and $\tau\ell$ final states (where ℓ is an electron or muon) at a center of mass energy of $\sqrt{s}=1.96$ TeV in 1 fb⁻¹ of data collected with the D0 detector. For a top quark mass of 170 GeV, we obtain $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}=8.18^{+0.98}_{-0.87}$ pb. In addition, the ratios of $t\bar{t}$ cross sections in different final states are used to set upper limits on the branching fractions $B(t\to H^+b\to \tau^+\nu b)$ and $B(t\to H^+b\to c\bar{s}b)$ as a function of charged Higgs boson mass. Based on predictions from higher order quantum chromodynamics, we extract a mass for the top quark from the combined $t\bar{t}$ cross section.

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Precise measurements of the production and decay properties of the heaviest known fermion, the top quark, provide important tests of the standard model (SM) and offer a window for searches for new physics. The inclu-

sive top-antitop quark pair $(t\bar{t})$ production cross section $(\sigma_{t\bar{t}})$ is measured in different $t\bar{t}$ decay channels assuming SM branching fractions. The results are compared to predictions in next-to-leading order perturbative quan-

tum chromodynamics (QCD), including higher order soft gluon resummations [1–4]. Ratios of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ measured in different final states are particularly sensitive to non-SM particles that may appear in top quark decays, especially if the boson in the decay is not a SM W boson. An example is the decay into a charged Higgs boson $(t \to H^+b)$, which, as predicted in some models [5], can compete with the SM decay $t \to W^+b$. Additionally, many experimental uncertainties cancel in the ratios. Furthermore, since $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ depends on the mass of the top quark (m_t) , it can be used to extract m_t . Such measurement is less accurate than direct mass measurements, but provides complementary information.

Within the SM, each quark of the $t\bar{t}$ pair is expected to decay nearly 100% of the times into a W boson and a b quark [6]. W bosons can decay hadronically into $q\bar{q}'$ pairs or leptonically into $e\nu_e$, $\mu\nu_\mu$ and $\tau\nu_{tau}$ with the τ in turn decaying onto an electron, a muon or hadrons, and associated neutrinos. If one of the W bosons decays hadronically while the other one produces a direct electron or muon or a secondary electron or muon from τ decay, the final state is referred to as the ℓ +jets channel. The leptonic decay of both W bosons leads to either a dilepton final state containing a pair of electrons, a pair of muons, or an electron and a muon (the $\ell\ell$ channel), or a hadronically decaying tau accompanied either by an electron or a muon (the $\tau\ell$ channel).

Measurements of the individual $t\bar{t}$ cross sections in $\ell\ell$ and $\tau\ell$ channels using about 1 fb⁻¹ of $p\bar{p}$ data from the D0 detector at the Fermilab Tevatron collider at $\sqrt{s}=1.96$ TeV are available in Ref. [7]. In the ℓ +jets channel, we use the same selection and background estimation as in Ref. [8], but a slightly larger dataset and a unified treatment of systematic uncertainties with the $\ell\ell$ and $\tau\ell$ channels. We provide a brief summary of the event selection and analysis procedures below.

In each final state we select data samples enriched in $t\bar{t}$ events by requiring one (two) isolated high transverse momentum (p_T) lepton for the ℓ +jets $(\ell\ell)$ channel. At least two (three) high p_T jets are required for $\ell\ell$ and $\tau\ell$ $(\ell+jets)$ events. Further, in all but the $e\mu$ channel, large transverse missing energy (\cancel{E}_T) is required to account for the large transverse momenta of neutrinos from W boson or τ lepton decays. In the $e\mu$ final state, a requirement on the sum of p_T of the highest p_T (leading) lepton and the two leading jets is imposed instead. In the $\mu\mu$ channel, the E_T requirement is supplemented with a requirement on the significance of the $\not\!\!E_T$ measurement, estimated from the p_T of muons and jets, and their expected resolutions. Additional criteria are applied on the invariant mass of the two opposite charge leptons of the same flavor in the ee and $\mu\mu$ channels to reduce the dominant background from $Z/\gamma^* \to \ell^+\ell^-$ events. In the ℓ +jets and $\tau \ell$ channels we require a minimum azimuthal angle separation between the E_T vector and the lepton p_T , $\Delta\phi(\ell, E_T)$, to reduce background from multijet events, where jets are misidentified as electron, muon or τ . Details of lepton, jet and $\not\!\!E_T$ identification are provided in

Refs. [9, 10]. The final selection in these channels demands at least one identified b jet via a neural-network based algorithm [11]. In the ℓ +jets channel we separate events with one or ≥ 2 b-tagged jets due to their different signal over background ratio and systematic uncertainties.

To simplify the combination and extraction of cross section ratios, all channels are constructed to be exclusive. If a reconstructed event can enter two selected samples, we keep it in the sample having less expected events. This is achieved by excluding events containing any isolated electrons in the $\mu\mu$ channel, a second electron in the $e\mu$ channel, or a muon or a second electron in the e+jets channel. Because of different muon identification criteria applied in the different channels, we reject those events from the μ +jets channel that pass the $\mu\mu$ selection or contain an electron. In the $\tau\ell$ channel we allow the signal to contain events from the ℓ +jets final state, and reject these events in the ℓ +jets channel. Finally. the τe channel and the $\ell\ell$ channels are kept statistically independent by rejecting events with a muon or a second electron in the τe selection. For the $\tau \mu$ channel, as in μ +jets, we reject events that pass the $\mu\mu$ selection or contain an electron.

The compositions of the samples in the ℓ +jets, $\ell\ell$ and $\tau\ell$ channels are shown in Table I. W+jets production dominates the background for the ℓ +jets events, while multijet production is the most important background in the $\tau\ell$ channel. Background in the $\ell\ell$ channels comes mainly from Z+jets production. The smaller contribution from diboson production is included in the category labeled "other background". This category also includes the contribution from single top quark production in the ℓ +jets and $\tau\ell$ channels.

To calculate the combined cross section, we define a joint likelihood function as the product of Poisson probabilities for the 14 disjoint subsamples, as listed in Table I. Fourteen additional Poisson terms constrain the multijet background in the $\ell+$ jets and $\tau\ell$ channels. In particular, for the τe and $\tau\mu$ channels, the multijet background is determined by counting events with an electron or muon and associated τ of the same electric charge, introducing a corresponding Poisson term per channel. In the $\ell+$ jets channel, we estimate the multijet background separately for each of the eight subchannels by using corresponding control data samples [12]. Four additional terms arise from applying this same method in evaluating the multijet background before b tagging.

Systematic uncertainties are included in the likelihood function through "nuisance" parameters [12], in which each independent source of systematic uncertainty is modeled by one free parameter. Each of these parameters is represented by a Gaussian probability density function with zero mean and width corresponding to one standard deviation (sd) of the parameter uncertainty; all are allowed to float in the maximization of the likelihood function, thereby changing the central value of the measured $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$. Thus, the likelihood function to be maximized

Channel	$Luminosity(pb^{-1})$	W+jets	Z+jets	Multijet	Other bkg	t ar t	Total	Observed	00 (1)
e+jets (3 jets, 1 b tag)	1038	$53.4^{+6.0}_{-6.0}$		$31.5^{+3.5}_{-3.5}$	$11.4^{+1.5}_{-1.4}$	$81.7^{+6.4}_{-6.7}$		183	$8.06^{+1.89}_{-1.71}$
μ +jets (3 jets, 1 b tag)	996	$59.2^{+5.5}_{-5.6}$	$6.5^{+1.3}_{-1.3}$	$9.7^{+2.8}_{-2.8}$	$9.5^{+1.2}_{-1.2}$	$59.0^{+5.7}_{-5.6}$	$143.9^{+8.1}_{-8.1}$	133	$6.43^{+2.22}_{-2.01}$
e +jets (3 jets, $\geq 2 b$ tags)	1038	$5.0^{+0.8}_{-0.8}$	$0.6^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	$2.7^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	$2.4^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$	$30.7^{+3.9}_{-3.9}$		40	$7.78^{+2.41}_{-2.01}$
μ +jets (3 jets, $\geq 2 b$ tags)	996	$5.8^{+0.9}_{-0.9}$	$0.7^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	$1.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	$2.1^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	$23.8^{+3.4}_{-3.2}$	$33.5^{+4.1}_{-3.9}$	31	$7.29^{+2.73}_{-2.25}$
e +jets (≥ 4 jets, 1 b tag)	1038	$8.5^{+2.7}_{-2.7}$	$2.2^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$	$7.9^{+1.0}_{-1.0}$	$3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$		$103.3^{+7.3}_{-7.6}$		$9.38^{+1.82}_{-1.52}$
μ +jets (≥ 4 jets, 1 b tag)	996	$13.6^{+2.6}_{-2.7}$	$2.5^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$	$0.0^{+0.0}_{-0.0}$	$2.4^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$	$65.9^{+6.9}_{-7.2}$			$10.44^{+2.11}_{-1.76}$
e +jets (≥ 4 jets, ≥ 2 b tags)	1038	$1.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	$0.2^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$1.1^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$0.9^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	$41.7^{+6.0}_{-6.0}$	$44.9^{+6.0}_{-6.0}$	30	$5.12^{+1.59}_{-1.28}$
μ +jets (≥ 4 jets, ≥ 2 b tags)	996	$1.5^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$	$0.3^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$0.0^{+0.0}_{-0.0}$	$0.7^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$35.6^{+5.0}_{-5.1}$	$38.2^{+5.1}_{-5.2}$	34	$7.60^{+2.11}_{-1.70}$
ee	1074		$2.3^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$	$0.6^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$	$0.5^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$11.6^{+1.2}_{-1.2}$		17	$9.61^{+3.47}_{-2.84}$
$e\mu$ (1 jet)	1070		$5.5^{+0.7}_{-0.8}$	$0.9^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$	$3.1^{+0.7}_{-0.7}$	$8.9^{+1.4}_{-1.4}$	$18.4^{+1.9}_{-1.9}$	21	$10.61^{+5.33}_{-4.23}$
$e\mu \ (\geq 2 \text{ jets})$	1070		$5.4^{+0.9}_{-1.0}$	$2.6^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$	$1.4^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$	$36.4^{+3.6}_{-3.6}$	$45.8^{+4.5}_{-4.5}$	39	$6.66^{+1.81}_{-1.52}$
$\mu\mu$	1009		$5.6^{+1.1}_{-1.2}$	$0.2^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	$0.6^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$9.1^{+1.0}_{-1.0}$			$5.08^{+3.82}_{-3.06}$
au e	1038	$0.6^{+0.0}_{-0.1}$	$0.6^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$3.0^{+1.7}_{-1.7}$	$0.2^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$10.7^{+1.3}_{-1.3}$			$8.94^{+4.03}_{-3.32}$
$ au\mu$	996	$0.8^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$1.2^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	$8.0^{+2.8}_{-2.8}$	$0.2^{+0.0}_{-0.0}$	$12.6^{+1.4}_{-1.4}$	$22.7^{+3.2}_{-3.2}$	20	$6.40^{+3.88}_{-3.43}$

TABLE I: Expected numbers of background and signal events for $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 8.18$ pb, observed numbers of data events and measured $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ at top mass of 170 GeV. Quoted uncertainties include both statistical and systematic uncertainties, added in quadrature.

can be represented by the product

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_{i=1}^{14} \mathcal{P}(n_i, m_i) \times \prod_{j=1}^{14} \mathcal{P}(n_j, m_j) \times \prod_{k=1}^{K} \mathcal{G}(\nu_k; 0, \text{sd}), (1)$$

where $\mathcal{P}(n,m)$ is the Poisson probability to observe n events given the expectation of m events. The predicted number of events in each channel is the sum of the predicted background and expected $t\bar{t}$ events, which depends on $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$. In the product, i runs over the subsamples, and j runs over the multijet background subsamples. The Gaussian distributions $\mathcal{G}(\nu_k; 0, \mathrm{sd})$ describe the systematic uncertainties, where K is the total number of independent sources of systematic uncertainty, and ν_k are the individual nuisance parameters. Correlations are taken into account, by using the same nuisance parameter for the same source of systematic uncertainty in different channels.

Systematic uncertainties on the measured $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ are evaluated from sources that include electron and muon identification; τ and jet identification and energy calibration; b-jet identification; modeling of triggers, signal and background; and integrated luminosity. All these uncertainties are treated as fully correlated among channels and between signal and background. Systematic uncertainties arising from limited statistics of data or Monte Carlo samples used in estimating signal or backgrounds are considered to be uncorrelated. A detailed discussion on systematic uncertainties can be found in Refs. [7, 8]. Table II shows a breakdown of uncertainties on the combined cross section. We evaluate the effect from each source by setting all uncertainties to zero except the one in question and redoing the likelihood maximization with respect to only the corresponding nuisance parameter.

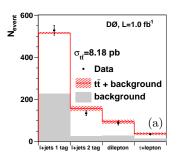
Since the method allows each uncertainty to change the central value, the total uncertainty on $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ differs slightly from the quadratic sum of the statistical and individual systematic uncertainties. The total systematic uncertainty on $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ exceeds the statistical contribution. The luminosity uncertainty of 6.1% which enters into the estimation of the majority of the backgrounds and the luminosity measurement of the selected samples is the dominant source of systematic uncertainty.

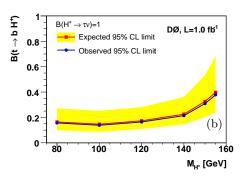
Table III summarizes the individual $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ measurements for the individual channels, as well as some of their combinations. Within uncertainties, all measurements are consistent with each other. The combined cross section for ℓ +jets, $\ell\ell$ and $\tau\ell$ final states for a top quark mass of 170 GeV is evaluated to be

$$\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 8.18^{+0.98}_{-0.87} \text{ pb},$$
(2)

in agreement with theoretical predictions [1–4]. The observed number of events in the different channels is compared to the sum of the background and combined $t\bar{t}$ signal in Fig. 1(a).

We compute ratios R_{σ} of measured cross sections, $R_{\sigma}^{\ell\ell/\ell j} = \sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\ell\ell}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\ell+\text{jets}}$ and $R_{\sigma}^{\tau\ell/\ell\ell-\ell j} = \sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\tau\ell}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\ell+\text{jets}\&\ell\ell}$, by generating pseudo-datasets in the numerator and denominator. $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{channel}}$ represent the measured cross sections in the corresponding channel. The pseudo-datasets are created by varying the number of signal and background events around the expected number according to Poisson probabilities. All independent sources of systematic uncertainties are varied within a Gaussian distribution. Although the individual channels considered are exclusive, each channel can receive signal contributions from different $t\bar{t}$ decay modes. We take into account the contribution of signal from dilepton into the ℓ +jets final





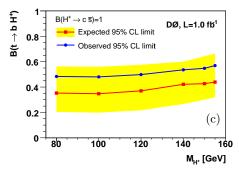


FIG. 1: (a) Expected and observed numbers of events versus channel, used in measuring the combined $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$. The dashed band around the prediction indicates the total uncertainty. Upper limits on $B(t \to H^+b)$ for (b) tauonic and (c) leptophobic H^+ decays. The yellow band shows the ± 1 sd band around the expected limit.

TABLE II: Summary of uncertainties on the combined $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$.

Source	$\Delta \sigma_{t\bar{t}} \; (\mathrm{pb})$
Statistical	+0.47 -0.46
Lepton identification	+0.15 -0.14
Tau identification	+0.02 -0.02
Jet identification	+0.11 -0.11
Jet energy scale	+0.19 -0.16
Tau energy scale	+0.02 -0.02
Trigger modeling	+0.11 -0.07
b jet identification	+0.34 -0.32
Signal modeling	+0.17 -0.15
Background estimation	+0.14 -0.14
Multijet background	+0.12 -0.12
Luminosity	+0.56 -0.48
Other	+0.15 -0.14
Total systematic uncertainty	+0.78 -0.69
	•

TABLE III: Summary of measured $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ in different channels for $m_t = 170$ GeV.

Channel	$\sigma_{t\bar{t}} \; (\mathrm{pb})$
$\ell + \mathrm{jets}$	$8.46^{+1.09}_{-0.97}$
$\ell\ell$ [7]	$8.46^{+1.09}_{-0.97} \\ 7.46^{+1.60}_{-1.37} \\ 8.18^{+0.99}_{-0.87}$
$\ell + \mathrm{jets}$ and $\ell \ell$	$8.18^{+0.99}_{-0.87}$
	$7.77^{+2.90}_{-2.47}$
$\ell{\rm +jets},\ell\ell$ and $\tau\ell$	$8.18^{+0.98}_{-0.87}$

state as well as the dilepton and ℓ +jets into the $\tau\ell$ channel by using the corresponding observed individual cross sections in generating the pseudo-datasets. For each pseudo-dataset, we perform the maximization of Eq. 1 separately in the numerator and denominator, and divide the results. The central value is obtained from the mode of the distribution of R_{σ} , and the uncertainties are derived from the interval containing 68% of the pseudo-experiments. From these pseudo-experiments we obtain $R_{\sigma}^{\ell\ell/\ell j} = 0.86^{+0.19}_{-0.17}$ and $R_{\sigma}^{\tau\ell/\ell\ell-\ell j} = 0.97^{+0.32}_{-0.29}$, which is consistent with the SM expectation of $R_{\sigma}=1$.

We use these ratios to extract upper limits on the branching ratio $B:=B(t\to H^+b)$. In particular, a charged Higgs boson decaying into a tau and a neutrino $(B(H^+\to \tau\nu)=1)$ results in more events in the $\tau\ell$ channel, while fewer events appear in the $\ell\ell$ and ℓ +jets final states compared to the SM prediction. In case of the leptophobic $(B(H^+\to c\bar s)=1)$ model, the number of dilepton events decreases faster than the number of ℓ +jets events for increasing $B(t\to H^+b)$. We therefore use $R_\sigma^{\ell\ell/\ell j}$ to set limits on the leptophobic model, while $R_\sigma^{\tau\ell/\ell\ell-\ell j}$ is explored to search for decays in which the charged Higgs bosons are assumed to decay exclusively to taus.

To extract the limits, we generate pseudo-datasets assuming different branching fractions $B(t \to H^+b)$. The signal for a charged Higgs boson is simulated using the PYTHIA Monte Carlo event generator [13], and includes decays of $t\bar{t} \to W^+bH^-\bar{b}$ (and its charge conjugate) and $t\bar{t} \to H^+bH^-\bar{b}$. For a given branching fraction B, we calculate the expected number of $t\bar{t}$ events per final state,

$$N_{t\bar{t}} = [(1-B)^2 \cdot \epsilon_{t\bar{t}\to W^+bW^-\bar{b}} + 2B(1-B) \cdot \epsilon_{t\bar{t}\to W^+bH^-\bar{b}} + B^2 \cdot \epsilon_{t\bar{t}\to H^+bH^-\bar{b}}]\sigma_{t\bar{t}}L, \qquad (3)$$

with ϵ are the selection efficiencies for the different decays and L is the integrated luminosity. We add $N_{t\bar{t}}$ to the expected background and treat the sum as a new number of expected events in each channel. We then perform the likelihood maximization to extract $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ from these pseudodata as if they contained only SM $t\bar{t}$ production. This provides different distributions for the ratios of cross sections for each generated B, which are compared to the observed ratio. We set limits on B by using the frequentist approach of Feldman and Cousins [14].

From $R_{\sigma}^{\tau\ell/\ell\ell-\ell j}$ we extract B in the tauonic model, and we use $R_{\sigma}^{\ell\ell/\ell j}$ to get B for the leptophobic charged Higgs boson decays. The observed and expected (i.e., for $R_{\sigma}=1$) limits for the tauonic and the leptophobic charged Higgs boson models are shown in Figs. 1b and 1c, respectively. In the tauonic model the upper limits on B range from 15% to 40% for charged Higgs boson masses between 80 GeV and 155 GeV, for a leptophobic charged

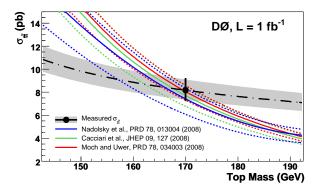


FIG. 2: Experimental and theoretical [1–3] $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ as function of m_t . The point shows the measured combined $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$, the black dashed line the fit with Eq. 4 and the gray band the corresponding total experimental uncertainty.

Higgs boson the limit is smaller than 57% for the same range of charged Higgs boson masses.

The interpretation of the direct measurement of the top quark mass [6], has become a subject of intense discussion in terms of its renormalization scheme [15]. The extraction of this parameter from the measured cross section provides complementary information, with different sensitivity to theoretical and experimental uncertainties, relative to direct methods that rely on kinematic details of the reconstruction of the top quarks. Using simulated samples of $t\bar{t}$ events generated at different values of the top quark mass, taking into account the mass dependence of the selection efficiencies, we fit the combined $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ as a function of m_t :

$$\sigma_{t\bar{t}}(m_t) = \frac{1}{m_t^4} [a + b(m_t - m_0) + c(m_t - m_0)^2 + d(m_t - m_0)^3]$$
(4)

where $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ and m_t are in pb and GeV, respectively, and $m_0 = 170$ GeV [16].

We compare this parameterization to a prediction in pure next-to-leading-order (NLO) QCD [1], to a calculation including NLO QCD and all higher-order soft-gluon resummations in next-to-leading logarithms (NLL) [2], to an approximation to the next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) QCD cross section that includes all next-to-next-to-leading logarithms (NNLL) relevant in NNLO QCD [3], and to a calculation that employs full kinematics in the double differential cross section beyond NLL using the soft anomalous dimension matrix to calculate the soft-gluon contributions at NNLO [4]. Figure 2 shows the

experimental and the theoretical [1–3] $t\bar{t}$ cross sections as a function of the top quark mass.

Following the method of Refs. [7, 8], we extract the most probable top quark mass values and the 68% CL band. Since the theoretical predictions are performed in the pole mass scheme, this defines the extracted parameter here. The results are given in Table IV. All values are in good agreement with the current world average of $171.2 \pm 2.1 \text{ GeV}$ [6].

TABLE IV: Top quark mass with 68% CL region for different theoretical predictions of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$. Combined experimental and theoretical uncertainties are shown.

Theoretical prediction	$m_t ext{ (GeV)}$
NLO [1]	$165.5_{-5.9}^{+6.1} 167.5_{-5.6}^{+5.8} 169.1_{-5.2}^{+5.9}$
NLO+NLL [2]	$167.5^{+5.8}_{-5.6}$
approximate NNLO [3]	$169.1^{+5.9}_{-5.2}$
approximate NNLO [4]	$168.2^{+5.9}_{-5.4}$

In summary, we have combined the $t\bar{t}$ cross section measurements in ℓ +jets, $\ell\ell$ and $\tau\ell$ channels to measure $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}=8.18^{+0.98}_{-0.87}$ pb for a top quark mass of 170 GeV. We have also calculated ratios of cross sections and interpreted them in terms of limits on non-standard model top quark decays into a charged Higgs boson. All results are in good agreement with the SM expectations. Finally, using different theoretical predictions given in the pole mass scheme, we have extracted the top quark mass from the combined $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ and have found the result to be consistent with the world average top quark mass [6] from direct measurements.

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